

8 August 1974

TALKING PAPER ON:      Reactivation of Requirements Advisory Board (RAB)

1. PURPOSE: To provide background material on the first step specified in ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE--AN ACTION PLAN.
2. POINTS OF MAJOR INTEREST:

a. International economic policy is increasingly interrelated with the national security. Thus, I agree with the PFIAB Report on Economic Intelligence of last December that there is a need for such a mechanism, one which will identify the current needs of high-level users of foreign economic intelligence and which will determine what contributions the intelligence community can make in this area. NSCIC by itself can not and should not fill this void. Not all high-level economic objectives should be brought to the attention of the NSCIC or its working group. Many financial, commercial, and trade matters would have little interest for them. Therefore, I believe we should reactivate the RAB for international economic intelligence, making it a special NSCIC working group.

c. Secretary Simon agreed orally in July that his Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Charles A. Cooper, will be the chairman of RAB and that

will serve as Executive Secretary.

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Membership will initially be composed of senior officers from Treasury, CIA, State, CIEP, CEA, STR, Commerce, Export-Import Bank, and Agriculture.

3. History of RAB:

a. February 1973--Established under the auspices of Secretary Shultz, as Chairman of the Council on Economic Policy.

b. May 1973--At its only formal meeting to date, the full board and secretariat, convening in the White House under the chairmanship of Kenneth Dam, formally approved two requirements [redacted] (Note: Secretary Bennett, Treasury's NSCIC member, attended that meeting as Treasury's RAB member.)

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e. August 1973--[redacted] met with Kenneth Dam, William Morell, Deane Hinton, and Andrew Marshall, then of the NSC Staff. It was generally agreed that representatives of economic intelligence users should be incorporated into the NSCIC apparatus. It was further agreed that not all intelligence support for economic policymakers would be sought through the NSCIC group; rather day-to-day support would be sought through other channels, both formal and informal.

f. July 1974--The DCI spoke with Secretary Simon of his belief that the RAB should now be reactivated. A proposed draft letter on this subject was sent to Secretary Simon. (Copy attached.) No reply has yet been received. (A milestone for achieving Resource Management Objective 3 calls for RAB reactivation prior to 1 November 1974.)

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